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February 9, 2005

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding.

On Tuesday, February 8, undersigned counsel, on behalf of the Alliance of Rural CMRS Carriers ("ARC"), met with Scott Bergmann and Barry Ohlson in Commissioner Adelstein's office to discuss the Commission's upcoming action in the above-referenced docket.

We discussed ARC members' success in bringing health/safety and economic development benefits to rural areas with high-cost support, and reaffirmed the need for wireless carriers to continue to receive high-cost support under competitively neutral universal service rules. We also affirmed positions taken in the comments filed by ARC in this proceeding. Finally, we discussed how the current 'per line' methodology for providing support to competitive ETCs controls fund growth and limits the ability of multiple competitors to enter high-cost areas. No written materials were provided at the meeting.

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If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. LaFuria".

David A. LaFuria

cc: Scott Bergmann, Esq.
Barry Ohlson, Esq.